

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are now present in this application, with new claims 21-28 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-20 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove/change any phrases unique to European practice; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include placing apparatus-type claims (setting forth elements in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-28

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in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A PC-arrangement is for visualisation, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring, controlling or regulating high voltage supply units of electric filters. The PC-arrangement for visualisation, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring, controlling and regulating high voltage supply units of electric filters includes a server-PC which is linked to high-voltage supply units of electric filters via a first network; and a client-PC forming a second network with the server-PC. In order to keep the network load on the first network connecting the server PC to the high voltage supply units as low as possible and to use Microsoft-standard mechanisms for distributed systems in order to achieve network capability for visualisation and measuring data processing systems, a software structure of the PC-device is broken down into autarchic software modules which respectively carry out at least one function. One autarchic server software module is formed in order to carry out data transfer and data exchange with the high-voltage supply units. The server software module is executed on the server PC connected to the high voltage supply units of the electric filters via the first network, and the other software modules are executed on each client-PC or the server-PC.

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Description

PC-ARRANGEMENT FOR VISUALISATION, DIAGNOSIS AND EXPERT SYSTEMS FOR MONITORING, CONTROLLING AND REGULATING HIGH VOLTAGE SUPPLY UNITS OF ELECTRIC FILTERS

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE03/00770 which has an International filing date of March 11, 2003, which designated the United States of America and which claims priority on German Patent Application number DE 102 14 185.1 filed March 28, 2002, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention generally relates to a PC arrangement for visualization, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring and controlling or regulating high-voltage supply units for electrostatic filters, having a server PC, which is linked by means way of a first network to the high-voltage supply units for the electrostatic filter, and client PCs, which form a second network with the server PC.

Background of the Invention

[0003] The control and optimization of these high-voltage supply units is essential to the operational reliability, the efficiency and the operation of the electrostatic filter. For the purpose of controlling the visualization system remotely, special remote access software is used in the case of known PC arrangements such as these. It is also possible to achieve the desired network functionality using OPC

servers, in which case, however, it is only possible to update data cyclically. Event-controlled data transmission, for example in the case of oscilloscope operation, is not possible.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] An embodiment of the invention is based on the object of developing the PC arrangement described initially for visualization, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring and controlling or regulating high-voltage supply units for electrostatic filters. This may be done such that, in order to achieve the network capability of visualization and measured data processing systems, the use of Microsoft standard mechanisms, for example, is possible. In that case, in addition, the integration of cyclic and event-controlled data processing can be realized. Further, the network load on the first network, which connects the server PC to the high-voltage supply units, can be kept as low as possible.

[0005] An object may be achieved according to the embodiment of the invention by a software structure for the PC arrangement being broken down into autonomous software modules, which in each case, the modules may realize at least one functionality. One of them may be which is in the form of an autonomous server software module which realizes the data transmission or the data exchange with the high-voltage supply units, by the server software module being implemented on the server PC connected to the high-voltage supply units for the electrostatic filter via the first network. Further, it is being possible for the further software modules to be implemented on each client PC or the server PC.

[0006] The first network, which connects the server PC

to the high-voltage supply units, may advantageously be in the form of a Profibus network. Alternatively, this first network may also be in the form of an Ethernet network using TCP/IP.

[0007] The second network, which connects the server PC to the client PCs, may be in the form of a standard network, for example in the form of an Ethernet network using TCP/IP protocol.

[0008] In order to ensure that, when any desired client application is started, the server PC or the server software module implemented on ~~said—the~~ server PC is automatically started as soon as data from the high-voltage supply units is required at the client PCs, it is advantageous if the server software module implemented on the server PC is in the form of a COM+/DCOM server or a WinSocket server.

[0009] Expediently, ~~in each case~~ one group of high-voltage supply units has an associated bus coupler.

[0008]

[0009] The server software module ~~is—may~~ be advantageously designed such that it can be used to categorize a large number of data from controllers of the high-voltage supply units differently, it being possible to cyclically update an image of critical measured and status data from the controllers in the server software module, whereas other data, for example parameter data, oscilloscope data, characteristic data and the like, can be transmitted at the request of one of the client PCs.

[0010] A connection between the server PC, which implements the server software module, and the controllers can be started automatically when data from

the controllers is requested at one or more client PCs.

[0011] The functionality "measured data archiving" is expediently realized by an autonomous measured data software module, which is advantageously in the form of a databank in which measured and status data can be archived for a predeterminable period of time.

[0012] The functionalities "visualization, parameter setting, device control" are realized according to one advantageous embodiment of the PC arrangement according to an embodiment of the invention by an autonomous display software module, it expediently being possible, by means of the display software module, to access data stored in the measured data software module, to access measured and status data updated in the server software module and, by means—way of the server software module, to directly access further data available in the controllers.

[0013] The display software module can preferably be implemented on two or more client PCs and the server PC simultaneously.

[0014] The display software module can expediently be realized on different user planes, for example on an operator plane and an expert plane, with the result that different monitoring and intervention measures are possible for persons having different levels of authority.

[0015] The functionality "control of auxiliary drives" is expediently realized by an autonomous control software module, in which components of the electrostatic filter can be matched automatically to different operating conditions of the electrostatic filter by means—way of this control software module.

[0016] The functionality "optimization" may be realized by an autonomous optimization software module, by means of which the operation of the electrostatic filter can be optimized using as a basis, for example, the efficiency of the electrostatic filter and/or the energy consumption of the electrostatic filter.

[0017] Advantageously, the server software module implemented in the server PC can be accessed by means way of the measured data software module, the display software module, the optimization software module and the control software module.

[0018] The data transmission or the data exchange via the server software module is advantageously both cyclic and event-controlled.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] Further advantages, features and details of the invention will become evident from the description of illustrated exemplary embodiments given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings, which are given by way of illustration only and thus are not limitative of the present invention, wherein:

[0019] The invention will be explained in more detail below on the basis of an embodiment with reference to the drawing, in which:

FIG 1 shows an embodiment of a PC arrangement according to the invention for visualization, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring and controlling or regulating high-voltage supply units for electrostatic filters; and

FIG 2 shows a block diagram of software modules

used in the PC arrangement shown in FIG 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0020] An embodiment shown in FIGURE 1 of a PC arrangement according to the invention for visualization, diagnosis and expert systems for monitoring and controlling or regulating high-voltage supply units 1, provided with controllers, for electrostatic filters has a server PC 2 having a monitor 3 and (in the exemplary embodiment illustrated) four client PCs 4.

[0021] The server PC 2 is connected to the high-voltage supply units 1 via a first network 5 in the form of a Profibus network. For this purpose, in each case one group of (in the exemplary embodiment illustrated) five high-voltage supply units 1 having controllers has in each case one associated bus coupler 6. The (in the exemplary embodiment illustrated) six bus couplers 6 are connected via an optical Profibus 7 to optical connection modules 8 which are connected for their part to the server PC 2.

[0022] The server PC 2 forms, with the (in the exemplary embodiment illustrated) four client PCs 4, a second network 9 which, in the exemplary embodiment illustrated, may be in the form of an Ethernet network using TCP/IP protocol. Furthermore, conventional standard networks may be used as the second network 9.

[0023] By means way of the abovementioned PC arrangement, it is possible to carry out the device control and the measured data visualization of the high-voltage supply units 1 on the server PC 2 and/or on any desired client PC 4 in the second network 9. The network load of the Profibus network 5, which connects the server PC 2 to

the controllers of the high-voltage supply units 1, is in this case kept as low as possible.

[0024] The high-voltage supply units 1 shown in FIGURE 1 serve the purpose of producing the high voltage for the electrostatic filter. The control and optimization of these high-voltage supply units 1 is essential to the efficiency of the electrostatic filter.

[0025] The functionalities which can be realized by means way of the PC arrangement described above, comprising including the server PC 2 and the client PCs 4, for example the measured data archiving, the visualization, the optimization, the regulation and the data transmission, are broken down into autonomous software modules, as is represented in particular in FIGURE 2, which illustrates the structure of these software modules.

[0026] An autonomous server software module 10, which realizes the data transmission or the data exchange with the high-voltage supply units 1 or their controllers, is implemented on the server PC 2 connected to the controllers of the high-voltage supply units 1 of the electrostatic filter via the Profibus network 5. This server software module 10 may advantageously be in the form of a DCOM server or a WinSocket server. The server software module 10 runs exclusively on the server PC 2, as is illustrated in FIGURE 2 by means of communication with a Profibus card 11.

[0027] The further software modules provided in the embodiment illustrated in the FIGURES, namely a measured data software module 12, a display software module 13, a control software module 14 and an optimization software module 15, may be implemented on

any desired PC, i.e. on the server PC and/or each client PC 4 of the PC arrangement.

[0027] The server PC 2 or the server software module 10 implemented on it exchanges data cyclically and in an event-controlled manner with the controllers 6 of the high-voltage supply units 1. This data can be categorized differently by means of the server software module 10, an image of measured and status data, critical for the operation of the high-voltage supply units 1, from the controllers 6 associated with the high-voltage supply units 1 being updated cyclically in the server software module 10. Further data, for example parameter data, oscilloscope data, characteristic data and the like can

[0028] -in each case be transmitted to a client PC 4 or to the server PC 2 at their request.

[0029] When the data in the last-mentioned category is requested at the server PC 2 or at a client PC 4, the connection between the server PC 2, which implements the server software module 10, and the controllers can be started automatically.

[0030] The functionally "measured data archiving" is realized by the autonomous measured data software module 12, the measured data software module 12 being in the form of a databank or data system in which measured and status data can be archived for a predetermined period of time.

[0031] The functionalities "visualization, parameter setting, device control" are realized by the display software module 13. Correspondingly, the display software module 13 makes it possible to visualize all of the data, to set or adjust parameters and to control the high-voltage supply units 1. The data which can be

visualized by ~~means—use~~ of the display software module 13 may be both retrieved from the measured databank, realized by ~~means—way~~ of the measured data software module 12, and transmitted via the server PC 2 or the server software module 10 running there directly from the high-voltage supply units 1 or their controllers.

[0032] The display software module 13 may be implemented at the same time on two or more PCs 2, 4 of the PC arrangement. The display software module 12 can be realized on different user planes, for example on operator and expert planes.

[0033] The functionality "control of auxiliary drives" is realized by the control software module 14—and makes it possible, for example, for the plate knocking of the electrostatic filter to be matched automatically to different operating conditions.

[0034] The optimization software module 15 realizing the functionality "optimization" results in the operation of the electrostatic filter taking place in an optimum manner taking into account the efficiency of said electrostatic filter and/or its energy consumption.

[0035] The realization of the server software module 10 using COM+/DCOM has the result that, at the beginning of any desired application on a client PC 4, for example visualization, optimization or data archiving, the server is started automatically as soon as the data is required by the controllers.

[0036] In the case of the PC arrangement according to an embodiment of the invention, which is described above with reference to an exemplary embodiment, comprising a server PC 2 and client PCs 4, it is possible, for the purpose of achieving the network capability of

visualization and measured data processing systems, to use Microsoft standard mechanisms for distributed systems. Furthermore, the integration of cyclic and event-controlled data processing is achieved.

[0037] Visible on a display, which is associated with the display software module 13 and is formed by said display software module 13, are the parameter setting, the measured values, an online oscilloscope, characteristics, visualization of the long-term data archive, error statistics and Profibus monitoring.

[0038] Exemplary embodiments being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the present invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.